

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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August 30, 2006

Senator Tom Coburn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on  
Federal Financial Management  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 27 requesting information on the University's federal appropriations and lobbying activities. First, please allow me to share some background information on our institution. The University of South Alabama (USA), created by the Alabama Legislature in 1963, is a major center of high quality undergraduate, graduate, medical and professional education located on the upper Gulf Coast. We enroll more than 13,500 students annually and have awarded more than 57,000 degrees, including 1,800 medical degrees. More than 250,000 people are served annually by USA's physicians, hospitals and clinics.

USA employs 5,600 people and has the largest dollar value payroll in Mobile County. Through our programs in teaching, research, service and health care, USA has a net economic impact on the region and state of \$2 billion annually

Degrees are available in Allied Health Professions, Arts and Sciences, the Mitchell College of Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Computer and Information Sciences, Continuing Education and Special Programs, and the Graduate School. USA also boasts an outstanding College of Medicine and clinical facilities, in addition to USA Medical Center and USA Children's and Women's Hospital. We offer a residential university experience for students of traditional age, and also serve as an urban university that provides learning for people across the life span.

USA has aggressively sought federal and state funding for numerous initiatives during the last several years. These projects have a significant impact on the health and economic well-being of our community, state and region.

Senator Tom Coburn  
Page Two  
August 30, 2006

In our efforts to seek additional funding, we have used the services of an in-house Governmental Relations Director and contract lobbyists based in Washington, D.C. We believe this combination provides us the best opportunity to present our needs to Congress.

We have had some success in securing federal appropriations. Our efforts have received support from state and community leaders. Many of the projects receiving federal funding have received matching funds from private donors and local governments.

I would like to highlight one project that is representative of the initiatives that have received federal support. Several years ago, the University recognized the need for a university-based cancer research and treatment center in our area. Currently, there is no such facility between Houston, Texas, and Tampa, Florida, east and west, and Birmingham, Alabama, to the north. Therefore, many cancer patients in our region of the country must travel hundreds of miles to receive state-of-the-art cancer treatment.

Based on that need, the University Board of Trustees voted to establish the Mitchell Cancer Institute, which is now under construction in Mobile, Alabama. Over a five-year period, the Institute has received \$32.9 million in federal appropriations, more than \$38 million in private contributions and pledges, and state and local funding of \$24 million.

We believe, when fully operational, the Mitchell Cancer Institute will become an integral part of our nation's effort to find a cure for cancer and will make a significant contribution to the development of new and better treatment procedures. Likewise, it will address a shortage of research-based cancer treatment on the rapidly-growing Gulf Coast. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on the federal funding process.

Sincerely,



V. Gordon Moulton

VGM/mb